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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. GARDNER).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 8, 2011.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CORY GARDNER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

JOHN A. BOEHNER,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 658. An act to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize appropriations for the Federal Aviation Administration for fiscal years 2011 through 2014, to streamline programs, create efficiencies, reduce waste, and improve aviation safety and capacity, to provide stable funding for the national aviation system, and for other purposes.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 5, 2011, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to 1 hour and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes each, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, our Nation is standing at a crossroads. The government can continue to mortgage America's future by reckless borrowing, which is a threat to the young people of our country, it's a threat to our senior citizens, or we can limit the growth of government. We are facing a government shutdown today, as liberals are driving our Nation to a permanent economic shutdown. Dr. Skeet Burris is correct.

Yesterday, the House passed a bill funding the troops and military families for the rest of the year. Senate Democrats have yet another opportunity to pass a budget. They have had 48 days to act but have refused. Yesterday, liberals laughed and mocked Republican Leader ERIC CANTOR when he warned of bankruptcy, but ERIC was standing up for freedom in the best Virginia tradition.

We face a shutdown today because the liberal majority in the House last year failed to pass a budget. The new Republican majority did pass a budget 48 days ago, but the liberal majority in the Senate failed to act. Citizens should call liberals and demand they pass a budget today.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September the 11th in the global war on terrorism.

MEDICARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in defense of our Nation's seniors, who are currently under attack. And the worst part about it is many of them are just waking up this morning

to the nightmare that faces them. And why is that? Because the Republican budget proposal released this week is literally balanced on the fragile backs of our Nation's seniors. That's right. It ends Medicare as we know it. That's the simple truth. It no longer honors our commitment and our promise to our Nation's seniors.

As Americans now know, we are in the midst of a serious budget battle, and the Republicans are even threatening to shut down government. And there are real differences between our approach to the budget and the Republican budget released earlier this week. The Republican budget replaces Medicare with a voucher system. Seniors will have to use this voucher to buy insurance from private insurance companies.

Under the Republican plan, Medicare as we know it will end. And in the same budget proposal, the Republicans give away tens of billions of dollars in subsidies to big oil companies. And under their plan, they will slash support for seniors in nursing homes, while giving away tax breaks to companies that ship our jobs overseas.

And what else? America's seniors, more than 150,000 in my home State of Rhode Island, will literally be paying more for their health care and getting less in order to provide additional tax breaks to the wealthiest Americans, also reflected in this Republican budget.

To make matters worse, the Republican plan does not reduce the deficit. The nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office determined that this budget actually adds \$8 trillion to the national debt over the next decade because its cuts in spending are far outpaced by the gigantic tax cuts for the richest Americans.

Our seniors cannot afford this Republican budget. It would deny them health care, long-term care, and the benefits they've earned and deserve.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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